

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB - VLTOMSETH:MFG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 224243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CFED, TH

SUBJECT: US CUSTOMS

REF: BANGKOK 16260

1. CUSTOMS IN HONOLULU HAS GIVEN US PRELIMINARY REPORT BY TELEPHONE. ACCORDING TO HONOLULU CUSTOMS, KITTI AND AMERICAN CITIZEN WIFE WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO REDECLARE PRIOR TO INITIATION OF INSPECTION AT AIRPORT. OFFICER'S REPORT STATES HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LANGUAGE PROBLEM AND TOOK CARE TO MAKE CERTAIN KITTI UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS EXPECTED. KITTI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND INSPECTION BEGAN. CUSTOMS OFFICER DISCOVERED NUMBER OF UNDECLARED ITEMS, INCLUDING JADE BRACELET, UNCUT JADE, RINGS, WATCH, AND NEW SUIT. TOTAL US DOMESTIC VALUE WAS \$1,410. SECTION 497 PROVIDES FOR CONFISCATION OF THE UNDECLARED ITEMS AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE US DOMESTIC VALUE OF ITEMS. CUSTOMS OFFICER HAS AUTHORITY TO REDUCE PENALTY IF THERE ARE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THIS INSTANCE FINE WAS REDUCED TO SIX TIMES DUTY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN LEVIED HAD ITEMS BEEN DECLARED (\$99.22) AND ITEMS WERE RELEASED TO KITTI.

2. CUSTOMS OFFICER IN HONOLULU, WHO SERVED WITH AID IN THAILAND AND APPRECIATES THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS CASE,
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SUGGESTED FOLLOWING POINTS MIGHT BE MADE WITH KITTI'S

FATHER:

A. KITTI RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL RELIEF AT TIME PENALTY
WAS IMPOSED.

B. KITTI AGREED TO THE PENALTY FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE
US CUSTOMS OFFICER AT THE AIRPORT.

C. IF KITTI SUBSEQUENTLY CONCLUDED PENALTY WAS EXCESSIVE,
HE MAY STILL FILE WITHIN 60 DAYS A PETITION FOR RELIEF.
KITTI WAS SO ADVISED BY HONOLULU CUSTOMS OFFICIAL.

3. CUSTOMS HONOLULU IS FORWARDING A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF
THEIR FILE ON THIS CASE WHICH WE WILL PASS TO YOU, BUT
IN THE MEANTIME YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS ABOVE PRELIMINARY
INFORMATION WITH KITTI'S FATHER. INGERSOLL

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